THE HISTORY

OF

CABO VERDE

550 YEARS (1460 – 2010) IN PAINTINGS

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PREFACE

The current work of Marcel Gomes Balla seeks to pursue iconographic development by means of artistic expression, to recreate a relevant historiography of Cape Verdean identity associated with different historical figures that throughout history have contributed to the process of Cape Verdean identity. In this case, he conducted several expositions of his paintings in the city of Praia and Ribeira Grande de Santiago in December 2009. These paintings reflect important historic events of Cape Verdean history, which expresses the dynamic role played by Cabo Verde in world history.

His paintings reflect a historic vision of Cabo Verde which provides evidence of the dynamics of the archipelago's past history since it was discovered, between 1460 and 1462, up until the time of national independence in 1975.

This perspective constitutes a modern version of history while portraying the ideological perceptions of the researcher, Marcel Gomes Balla as he distinguishes Cape Verdean history based on historical facts and treats it similar to the time when the Republic of Portugal was established in 1910.

The author takes us back in time in order to stress the importance of Antonio de Noli and the role played by Cabo Verde in the creation of a culture that was conceived in miscegenation and then sprouted from the islands and expressed itself on the other side of the Atlantic with the dawn of the modern era.

For the investigator in question, it is very important that we understand the meaning of the term "New World", which in its

constitution; Cabo Verde provided a relay service such as a warehouse or trading station for slaves that were destined for different ports of the Americas. But overall for the author; more than the universal vision relating to the Americas; it is important to understand the true significance of a nascent perspective of the cosmos, based on the beginning of European expansion and discoveries during the 15th century. Therefore, in his perspective, it is possible to perceive that Cabo Verde represents the beginning of the New World, or in other words, for the historian Marcel Gomes Balla, this history is unfortunately being ignored and this ignorance could translate into serious [economic] losses for the archipelago. These islands should awaken more [historical and culture] interest in the world, especially for those people who have roots in Cabo Verde.

The author tries to reclaim Cape Verdean history, which has often been seen as irrelevant or unimportant and the historic contributions of these islands have often been dismissed and treated with a certain bias (either voluntarily or involuntarily). Nevertheless, Cabo Verde served humanity as a "human laboratory" in the diffusion of the Creole culture throughout the world.

Thus the author establishes the exact manner in which Cabo Verde performed an important function in the creation of culture diversity which was spread around the world.

He uses the book to emphasize the migration phenomenon that has been associated with the islands, mainly the emigration to the USA and illustrates the ups and downs experienced by the Cape Verdeans due to their spirit of adventure, beginning with the example of the fate of the boat, the "Matilde".

He doesn't fail, however, to reveal the schemes that Cape Verdeans used to emigrate, whether by working which opened up the doors to a better future or by education.

With this book, the historian, Balla, gives an example of how the independence of Cabo Verde provides us with an opportunity to reconstruct our own history. Political freedom offers the possibilities to develop African cultural elements that contribute to the Cape Verdean identity. The author sees Amilcar Cabral as the ultimate medium of this vision. Even in the past, he emphasizes the Cape Verdean spirit revealed by the "claridsosos" (those authors who enlightened the Cape Verdean people and inspired their desire for independence).

The book which Balla is now publishing provides us with a very important point of view which contributes to historical documentation that is duly organized through his own paintings, which is a rare occurrence. The importance of this work is basically centered on the fact that he is making a presentation to the new generations so that they will have the opportunity to see for themselves and make their own judgments about our origins and overcoming the previously held Eurocentric vision of our past. He provides us with this perspective through paintings that help to reveal our true history.

Praia, 2 January 2012

Dr. Lourenço Conceição Gomes

Professor de História – Uni-CV, Praia Cabo Verde

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Fortunately, I was helped by many people in the City Hall of Praia, then I was given great support by the International Institute of the Portuguese Language (IILP) as well as several other important institutions such as the Institute Camões, the University of Cabo Verde (Uni-CV), The Institute of Scientific Tropical Investigations (IICP), The Spanish International Cooperation, The Portuguese Embassy, The Cape Verdean Embassy in Portugal, The Minister of Foreign Affairs in Cabo Verde, The Institute of Communities, The Cape Verdean Embassy in Italy, The American Embassy in Cabo Verde, The City Hall and Library of VR Sto Antonio, Portugal, The City Hall of Noli, Italy, The City Hall of Serra Riccó, Genoa, Italy.

There were many individuals in these institutions that took a special interest in this project despite their very busy schedules, such as Dr. Fatima Barbosa, Dr. Antonio Tober Silva, the Director of Culture for the city of Praia, Professor Leopoldo Amada, Professor Antonia Lopes, Dr. Semira Silva, Dr. João Neves, President of the Institute of Camões, Dr. Carlos Carvalho, who was President of the Institute of Scientific Tropical Investigations (IIPC). He spent many hours with me to insure that this project would be reviewed by the proper authorities. Prime Minister Neves provided me with critical moral support**.** Dr. Mariana Ornellas do Rego and Dr. Assunção Constantino of the Vicente Campinas Library in VR STo Antonio, Portugal, organized and sponsored the events in Portugal and Dr. Carlos Cavaco e Sra. Sandra Ferreira da Sismagic, Lda.

This project involved many people who helped to organize and sponsor the exhibitions that were presented in various

cities and towns in Europe, the USA and Cabo Verde. I would like to give special thanks to my sister Ruby Balla Brown of Sagamore, MA for her great efforts to inform the people in Wareham, MA about the 550th Anniversary of the Discovery of Cabo Verde. In Cabo Verde I was given great technical advice by Glaucia Nogueira and I would like to thank the university history student association at the University of Cabo Verde (Uni-CV) for inviting me to present my exhibition and lecture at the university and then giving me excellent back-up support.

There were many people who inspired me to seek out new information based on the tips they gave me, one such person was Ramiro Mendes of the Mendes Brothers, who helped me to learn more about the first Cape Verdeans in America. Bill and Stella Pires of New Bedford taught me a great deal about Cape Verdean navigation history. Traudi Coli a historian helped me with many documents and stories about sea captains from Cabo Verde. Tom Lopes and Andy Andrade provided me with valuable space in their Cape Verdean newspapers to inform their readers about our Cape Verdean heritage. Mary Vieira Rose of Onset, MA gave me the courage to continue my work when things weren't going well. David Soares of New Bedford helped me find our heritage in the interior of the island of Santiago. Guenny Pires inspired me by his work as a film producer. He travels all over the world to record our heritage on film. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Jose Brito invited me to display my exhibit in the entrance of the Foreign Affairs Office building where I was given excellent support by members of his staff, Jorge Pedro Costa and Francisco Veiga as well as his secretaries. Dr. Anteiro Veiga, the director of the presidential office had strong influences on the success of the project. Eugenio Sena of Nova Sintra Portugal provided me with excellent information about Cape Verdean maritime

history on the island of Brava. Dr. Humberto Lima, the former director of the National Historical Archives in Praia, who along with his staff provided me with plenty of help in locating important information that I used in my research. Dr. Orlando Borjas found time to help me present my first lecture in Cabo Verde which would have been chaotic without him. I would like to give special thanks to the Cape Verdean Ambassadors Arnaldo Andrade in Portugal and Eduardo Barbosa in Italy, as both ambassadors made serious contributions to the success of this special project and giving lectures in support of the 550th commemoration activities in Portugal and Italy. These lectures not only supported my paintings, but also gave the host countries a new awareness of Cape Verdean history. I would also like to thank the American Ambassadress Marianne Myles, who managed to find time in her extremely busy schedule to attend the exhibition and lecture at the Portuguese Embassy. There were other distinguished guests who attended the exhibits and lectures for which I am deeply grateful for their moral support; Dr. Manuel Veiga, the Minister of Culture, President Jorge Fonseca when he was still a candidate for president and the former Minister of Education, Dr. André Corsino Tolentino. In Italy, the 550th commemoration activities had strong support from Mayor Andrea Tomasso Torre of Serra Riccó in Genoa and Mayor Ambrogio Repeto of Noli. Professor Corradino Astengo of the University of Genoa provided valuable information about the significance of Cape Verdean history during his lecture in Noli, Italy. Professor Trevor Hall of Jamaica and Professor Lourenço Gomes of the University of Cabo Verde also provided information of great value to the Cape Verdean people during their lectures in Noli, Italy. In Portugal strong support for the commemoration activities was given by Mayor Luis Gomes and the Deputy Mayor José Carlos Barros who coordinated the activities with

the directors of the Vicente Campinas Library where the painting exhibit and lectures were presented in VR Sto Antonio.

It would have been extremely difficult for me to complete my project on time if it were not for the valuable support that I was given when doing my research. Mrs. Teresa Vicente of the city hall of Noli, Italy helped me to locate important books. Mr. Francisco "Chico" Lopes of Ribeira Grande de Santiago who was able to identify the first church built in Ribeira Grande. Technical support and printing was also given by Daniel Gomes and his assistant Luis Gomes who helped to solve many technical problems for me during the process of publishing this book. Professor Marcello Noli, a direct descendant of Antonio de Noli was instrumental in coordinating all of the 550 year commemoration activities in Italy. Professor Alberto Peluffo also played a key role in organizing events in Noli, Italy. Captain Vasco Pires of Massachusetts made a special visit to Italy for a couple of days to deliver an important speech about the impact made by Cabo Verde on the history of the United States. Professor Mario Lorenzo Paggi, the president of the Sto Antonio Culture Foundation in Noli, presided over the conference that was held in that city. Special recognition must be given to Dr. Arlindo Gomes, a retired Ambassador who spent many hours with me, in order to insure that the Portuguese version of this book was properly translated. Assistance was also provided by Mr. Rogeiro Leitão. Valuable assistance was also provided by Dr. Spencer Lopes.

I learned how to paint portraits by studying books and videos under the guidance of Daniel Greene and Everett Raymond Kinstler, two of the best art instructors in America for portraits. I had to seek special help in order to learn how to

paint maritime scenes. Since, I wasn't able to find a good book on the subject, I had to make a special trip to Spain in 2009 where I was given private lessons by Judy Holley **j**ust a few months before my first exhibition. My mother Emmajean Christmas Balla, taught me that "where there is a will, there is way". The people listed here, provided me with the "way" to complete this project. My father; Alfredo Gomes Balla, inspired me to stay connected to my heritage. Finally, I must not forget the cameraman Willie Williams of Praia. This gentleman filmed my presentation so that everything could be recorded on film for future reference. To all of the people mentioned here and others who were not mentioned but were still very important to the success of this project, I am deeply grateful. This was a very difficult project for me and it would have been impossible to complete without the international support of the many people listed herein.

INTRODUCTION

Like many Cape Verdeans in the Diaspora it was always very difficult to know the truth about our history and culture. Thus, it was for this reason that I decided to investigate this mystery in order to know the truth. In this sense I began to study history and take note of the problems that I had to face. Since it was very difficult to find sources on this subject in the United States where I was born, I had to go to Portugal and later to Cabo Verde in order to find sources that were more solid.

Little by little I began to get a better understanding of the history of Cabo Verde until I was able to identify one serious problem. This problem was the lack of pictures to express our heritage. In order to solve this problem, I wanted to paint pictures as an expression of Cape Verdean heritage. Unfortunately, I did not know how to paint. Finally, I decided that I would have to learn how to paint. Obviously, this would require plenty of time, a lot of work and a lot of money, but in the end I managed to be ready in time to commemorate 550 years of the history of Cabo Verde in paintings. This book is the result of that work which I did for the events with exhibitions and lectures in several countries during the year 2010. All of the pictures in this book were painted by me.

I hope that the reader of this book will be inspired to complement this work so that the world will finally begin to understand the history of Cabo Verde and recognize the contributions made by this country in world history.

M. G. Balla

CENTURY XV

THE DISCOVERY OF CABO VERDE

Antonio de Noli is considered to be the official discover of Cabo Verde in 1460. This information is found in the Torre do Tombo in Lisbon. (Carta Regia).

PORTRAIT OF ANTÓNIO DE NOLI

I found a picture of the navigator on a collection of old stamps and used it as a guide to create this painting. There are many mysteries about the life of this navigator. Some writers say that he was born in Genoa; others say that he was born in Noli. I have not been able to find any document to certify his place of birth despite my research. In any case, it is generally believed that he was born in 1419 and died in 1496/97. In the Ancient Maritime Republic of Noli he has been considered to

be a native son of that area, while in Genoa, he is considered to be a Genoan (in my opinion he was from Genova).

He departed the port of Noli on the Liguria coast with his brother Bartolomeu and his nephew Rafael in three ships and a crew of Genoese sailors, for political reasons.

He arrived in Portugal and served Prince Henry as a navigator/explorer.

He was awarded the Capitania (administrative district) on the southern part of Santiago Island and established the first city in the tropics in Ribeira Grande in 1462 (Pereira, Marcos 44).

It is very important to understand that this city was used as a strategic base for Portugal to control the Atlantic sea routes to South Africa, Asia and Latin America.

It also served as the port of entry to the New World and made a paradigmatic shift in the history of mankind that reshaped world history.

NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO
(OUR LADY OF THE CONCEPTION)

This church must be considered as the first church in the new world. It was built in the 1460s in Ribeira Grande.

We must remember the fact that Cabo Verde was a new world for Europeans. In this sense Cabo Verde represents the beginning of the new world and this fact should be understood.

The church was built under the leadership of two catholic monks, Friar Jaime and Friar Rogerio from the convent of St. Bernardino de Atougia in Cataluña and they arrived with other colonists in 1462 (Historia da Igreja). Today the church is in ruins.

NOSSA SENHORA DA LUZ
(OUR LADY OF LIGHT)

This church was built in the 1470's and according to local residents it is still active. Thus, it must be the oldest church still active from the discovery period. Today it is in an area called "Ponto Inglês" (formerly Alcatraz).

Note: Alcatraz was abandoned after about 55 years and now there are very few traces to confirm its history during the era of Diogo Afonso, the first captain of this district. Diogo Afonso was never a permanent resident in the city as was Antonio de Noli in Ribeira Grande.

THE SPANISH CONQUEST

In 1476 the Spanish conquered Cabo Verde and in 1477, the King of Castile; King Ferdinand wrote a letter so that all the residents would understand that Cabo Verde was under his jurisdiction and they were all his subjects. This letter was ordered to be posted in all of the public places. It was also explained in the letter that António de Noli would be the captain in Cabo Verde (Verlinden).

In this sense we can understand that the beginning of Hispanic history began in Cabo Verde on 6 June 1477. Cabo Verde was the first Spanish colony during the discovery period or in other words the birthplace of Hispanic civilization is in Cabo Verde.

Later in 1492, the king financed the voyage of Columbus to America and began his aggressive colonization campaign in the New World.

SPANISH CONQUISTADORES IN CABO VERDE IN THE 1470S

Many people forget that Spain conquered Cabo Verde in 1476 and all indications suggest that the Spanish treated the slaves worse than the Portuguese.

In this imaginary painting I show the soldiers watching over the slaves in the sugar cane fields of Santiago Island on a hot day. The Spanish controlled Cabo Verde between 1476 and 1479.

COLUMBUS VISITS ANTÓNIO DE NOLI

Most historians are in agreement with the theory that Columbus visited Cabo Verde before his voyage to America. Unfortunately, practically no one speaks about the possible meeting between Antonio de Noli and Columbus. But apparently since Antonio de Noli was in Cabo Verde for many years, it is very probable that the two explorers could have met one another at least once in Cabo Verde.

In this picture I wanted to show the two navigators together since there is a strong possibility that this encounter took place before 1492 based on historical data.

As a minimum I hope that other historians will pursue these arguments and develop this hypothesis in greater detail.

CABO VERDE - THE CRADLE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Here I wanted to show how the strategic location of Cabo Verde represented a clear factor in the development of western civilization. The sea routes were used to carry freight and passengers from Europe to all continents. We must remember that the term “western civilization” did not exist before the discovery of Cabo Verde because the western hemisphere was unknown by Europeans. It was only after the discovery of Cabo Verde that the roots of western civilization became known.

It is a well known fact that many agriculture and industry systems were transferred through the islands of Cabo Verde to new destinations of the new world. Thus, the mixture of people and cultures that were being transferred created a new civilization. So with the advancement of maritime discoveries and the enlargement of the world, Cabo Verde would receive elements from Asia, America, Europe and Africa (Canfux and Ferro 53). In fact, it is the opinion of many people that globalization began in Cabo Verde. It can also be said that Cabo Verde served history as a trampoline from which the Greco-roman civilization was transferred to the New World which would become known later as Western Civilization.

PORTUGUESE NAUS

In this picture I wanted to paint some examples of ships used at the end of the 15th century and beginning of the 16th century by great explorers such as Vasco da Gama and Pedro Alvares Cabral among others. Many of these ships were anchored in the ports of Cabo Verde and contributed to the development of this history.

CENTURY XVI

ANDRÉ ALVARES D'ALMADA

He was a **mestizo Cape Verdean** who wrote the book, "Tratado Breve dos Rios da Guiné e de Cabo Verde," in 1594. This book is important because he wrote about the culture and habits of the Africans at a time when everything was being written by Europeans. This was probably the first book ever written about this area.

Besides this, he was a distinguished warrior against the pirates who invaded the islands,[such as Francis Drake]. He was awarded the honor of “Cavaleiro do Cristo” (Knight of Christ) in 1603, despite the fact that this honor was against the statutes and not allowed to be given to a non-European (a mestizo of African descent in this case). This was the highest honor ever awarded in the history of colonialism (Vilas).

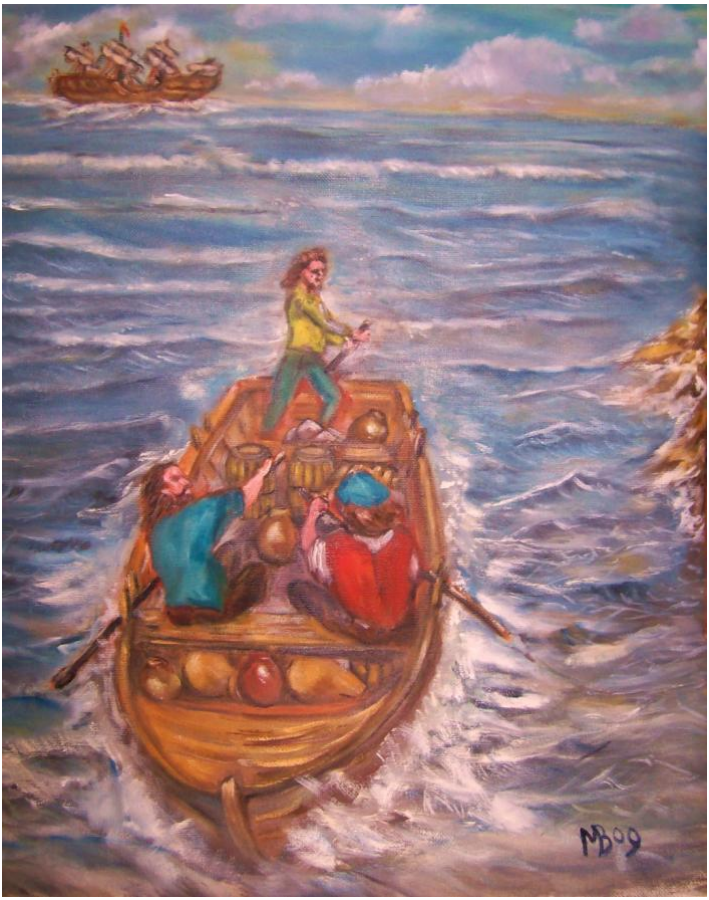
The painting was from my imagination.

THE FLOGGING POST

According to historians such as Daniel Pereira and Lorenzo Gomes, The Flogging Post (Pelourinho) was built in Cidade Velha in the year 1512.

Generally speaking, this flogging post represents the symbol of power by the authorities and was used to castigate people for crimes such as stealing and other non-violent crimes (Pereira, Importance n. pag.).

THE FIRST VOYAGE AROUND THE WORLD



In the year 1522 the crew of the ship “Nau Vitoria” under the command of Sebastian del Cano made a stop in Cabo Verde to acquire enough food supplies to guarantee their return to Spain where they confirmed the theory that the world was round.

When the crew saw Cabo Verde they were able to conclude that the world was round because they had passed the archipelago three years earlier.

The crew also discovered in conversations with the Cape Verdeans that a day had been lost and later this day would become the international date line that we know today (D. Pereira, Marcos 22-23).

DRAKE VISITS CABO VERDE

We know that Drake went to Cabo Verde and sacked the islands, but this history is also a little blurry.

Some books inform us that the pirate invaded Cabo Verde twice, and others say only once, but in any case we must learn the importance of this invasion between 1578 and 1585 (Canfux and Ferro 39). I know one person who went to a museum in San Francisco in the USA where he saw a map of Francis Drake's voyage around the world without a stop in Cabo Verde. It is exactly for this reason that I wanted to paint a picture of Drake arriving in Cabo Verde, because once more, I would like that the public remember this picture of this voyage.

Note: It is important to note that a great country like England had the courage to sack Cabo Verde.

CENTURY XVII

THE BISHOP PURCHASES SLAVES

In this picture I wanted show some truths about the history of the church which is never mentioned by the church. Here we find Bishop Brandão on the coast of Africa buying slaves. I created this picture from my imagination, but the fact that he was a slave owner is documented in the archives in Lisbon and revealed in a book about the Jesuits in Cabo Verde by Nuno da Silva Gonçalves. He also was accused of illegal trading for merchandise in Africa on the Coast of Guinea and other areas (Gonçalves 70-73).

The most important fact of this story is revealed in a document after his death that showed a listing of all his belongings that represented his estate and slaves were listed as part of his estate (Carta da Relação).

Later there would be a struggle to determine who should receive the slaves, should they go to the church or to the government. This decision involved the Pope in Rome and the King of Portugal to determine the rightful owner of the slaves (Gonçalves 73). I found the original document in a museum in Lisbon

THE VOYAGE OF THE ARK AND THE DOVE

Due to the many problems that the English were facing in their voyages to the new colonies in America they decided to plan a route through the Canary Islands and Cabo Verde in 1633. According to my research they must have stopped in Cabo Verde in 1634 and then continued onward to Jamestown, VA and St. Mary's, MD where they arrived on 25 March 1634.

On this voyage aboard the ship "Ark" there was a mulatto who disembarked by the name of Mathias de Sousa, who was a servant for the Jesuit priest Andrew White of the Catholic Church. This voyage served England and the church as an opportunity to establish the Catholic Church in the American colonies under the instructions of the pope in Rome ("Exploring Maryland Roots").

All indications suggest that Mathias de Sousa must have been a Cape Verdean but until today nothing has been firmly established. However some historians believe that he was Cape Verdean.

PORTRAIT - MATHIAS DE SOUSA

This portrait is based on a work carved on a monument in St Mary's, MD. The work was ordered by a state commission in Maryland in 1987 to honor the contributions of African Americans in the state of Maryland. The sculpture was the work of the artist who worked from his imagination because there weren't any pictures available to use as a guide. I believe

that I should express my concern with this work. The Afro-Americans wanted to benefit from this history without mentioning Cabo Verde. The Portuguese in America want to classify him as being Portuguese ("Portuguese Americans"). The Cape Verdeans have good reasons to classify him as a Cape Verdean.

Obviously we are having many problems with this poor gentleman because he played a major role in American history:

He attended the first catholic mass in America (Thomas).

He served the priest, Andrew White for 4 years as a servant and was given his freedom in 1638;

He was a captain of a ship in 1641 and led a commercial voyage in trade with the Indians;

He served in the Legislative Assembly in the state of Maryland and therefore he was the first person of African origins to vote in the history of America and he participated in the construction of the first catholic church of America ("Exploring").

It is also believed that he worked as an interpreter between the English and the Indians.

I believe that we must try to study this gentleman with due care because his story is extremely important in American history and should be treated with great care in Cabo Verde.

Ray Almeida tells us that: "We have enough reason to believe that he may have been a Cape Verdean" (Almeida, R.).

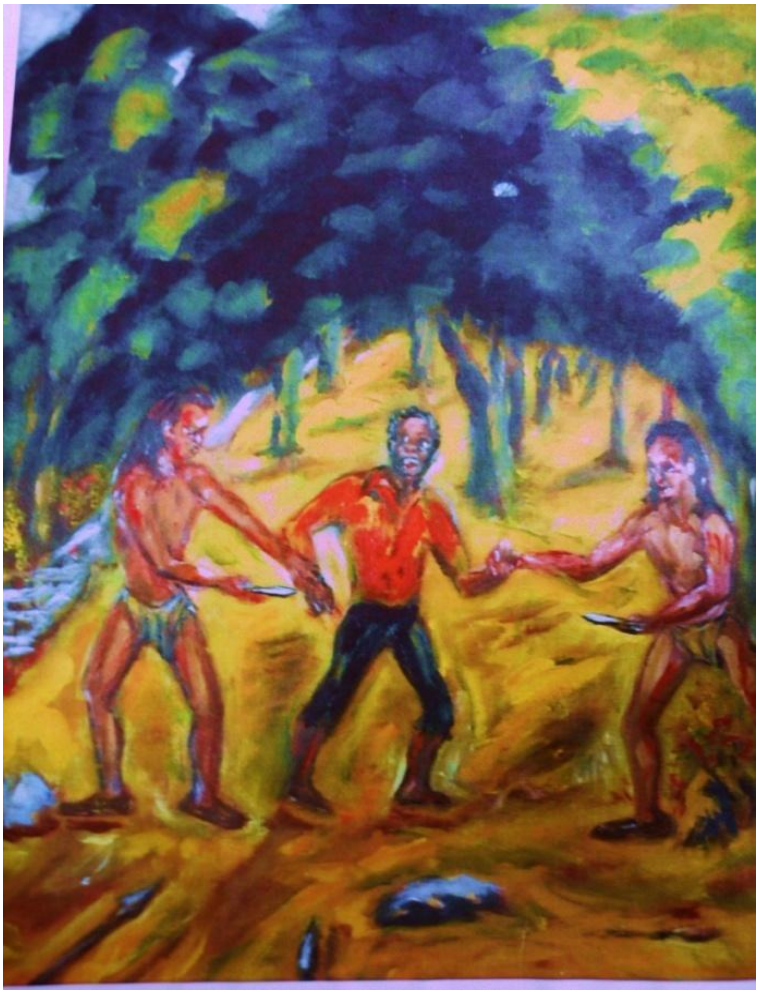
CENTURY XVIII

CAPE VERDEANS EXPLORING THE OREGON COAST IN 1788

In 1787 two American ships “The Lady Washington” and “The Columbia” went to Cabo Verde and stayed there for about 6 weeks. During this time they recruited at least 4 Cape Verdeans as crew members. These seamen participated in the exploration of the Oregon coast about 15 years before the arrival of the famous Lewis and Clark expedition.

One of the boats represented the first American crew to sail around the world.

MARCOS LOPES IS ATTACKED BY INDIANS



The cabin boy Marcos Lopes was one of the seamen recruited by the Americans in 1787. During the explorations on the Oregon Coast he was attacked by Indians and the

Americans believed that he was killed in the attack (Eliott). However, there were American descendants of the original settlers in this area who believed the young seaman may have survived the attack because many years later an Indian Chief was seen in the area who had definite features of a Negro.

AMERICAN INDIANS AND CAPE VERDEANS CHANGE THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

This painting might be controversial but I strongly believe that it was necessary to paint it. In this picture we see a Cape Verdean assisting Captain John Kendrick make a treaty with the Indians in the United States. We know that in the Oregon territory American explorers made treaties with the Indians and purchased significant tracts of land ("Robert Gray Returns"). We also know according to the book "The Voyage of the Columbia" that two American ships , the "Lady Washington" and the "Columbia" went to Cabo Verde in December, 1787 and the Captains, John Kendrick and Robert Gray recruited at least 4 Cape Verdeans to replace several American seamen who disembarked in Cabo Verde.

Unfortunately, we do not have any more information about these seamen that were recruited in Cabo Verde for the voyage around the world except for the cabin boy, Marcos Lopes, who was attacked by the Indians as mentioned previously. But in any case, we have enough information to link the annexation of the Oregon Territory directly or indirectly to Cabo Verde or Cape Verdeans for at least 4 reasons:

1. Americans (as well as Europeans) have always used the rules of the doctrine of discovery when taking possession of lands not controlled by Christians, or in other words they used the rules that were stipulated in the Treaty of Tordesilhas and the papal bulls that had strong links to this treaty (Paul). **And we all now know that Cabo Verde played a crucial role in this treaty.**

2. We already know that the Americans made treaties with the Indians and purchased land from them as a result of these explorations in the Oregon Territory.

3. There isn't any doubt that Marcos Lopes, a Cape Verdean was part of this expedition and was attacked by Indians. We also know that because of the attack on Marcos, the Indians began to go after the rest of the Americans and they launched a furious attack on Captain Gray´s ship and he and his crew had to make an emergency exit in a hurry in order to save their lives (Short Oregon). After fleeing from this area they arrived at the mouth of a river that would later be named "Columbia River" by Captain Robert Gray. In American history he is considered to be the official discoverer of this river. Later, after many years of joint occupation in this territory by the Americans and the

British, they made what is known as; "The Oregon Treaty," in 1846 and many writers and historians believe that it was because of this treaty that the Oregon Territory was awarded to the USA ("Robert Gray's Columbia"). The Oregon Territory consisted of 3 states; Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, but it also included a large part of Montana and Wyoming. This is a land area about the size of Portugal and Spain combined.

4. I am also of the firm conviction that at least one Cape Verdean had a role in the Oregon Treaty. This hypothesis is based on the fact that Mr. Manuel T. Neves; the founder of the newspaper "Cape Verdean" (in 1969 in the city of Lynn, MA) the first Cape Verdean newspaper in America; published an article a few years before he died and stated clearly, that the highly respected lawyer, Alfred Gomes of New Bedford, MA (now deceased) had told him, that **"It was because of a Cape Verdean that the United States acquired the state of Washington."** It is very possible that he learned some facts and theories about this matter when he was undergoing legal training in a law school.

Fortunately, with the information provided in this story, many of these facts can be confirmed today by doing research on the Internet and it has always been my hope that Cape Verdeans will begin to investigate this history with more dedication so that the future of Cabo Verde will gain more dignity with less crime.

CENTURY XIX

THE “USS CONSTITUTION” (OLD IRONSIDES)

The most famous ship in American naval history and the oldest ship still active has a lot of history connected to the islands of Cabo Verde.

A good part of this history took place in the 1840s and 1850’s when the African Squadron went to Cabo Verde to suppress the slave trade on the African Coast and to protect Afro Americans who were returning to Africa, more precisely; to Liberia (Brodini et. al.).

Nevertheless, the first visit in Cabo Verde was during the war of 1812 when the ship was in a battle with the English and was forced to flee to Cabo Verde for her salvation (Marquardt). In Boston, the Samuel Eliott Morison Library (tel. 617-426-1812 ext 118) offers plenty of information about this ship.

CHARLES DARWIN IN CABO VERDE

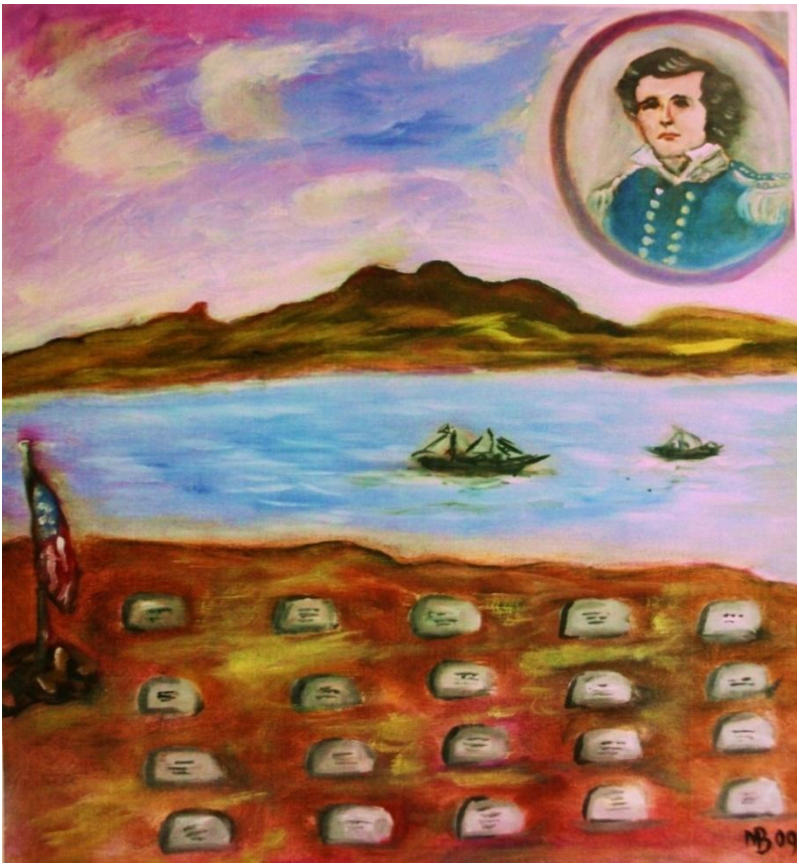
A young Charles Darwin was traveling on the boat “The Beagle” and left England in 1831 and his first stop was in Cabo Verde in 1832. It was here in Cabo Verde where he developed his research methods which were used to write the book “Origin of Species” (Darwin).

During this visit he employed an African priest as a guide in Cidade Velha; an interesting encounter between religion and evolution.

By a strange coincidence it turns out that Cape Verdeans represent the first known ethnic-cultural group that actually was created through evolution and can possibly be verified by scientific investigation with the help of DNA.

It must always be remembered that one fact of history is crystal clear; the Cape Verdean people did not exist before 1460 in any written document anywhere in the world. It is also a fact of history that the Cape Verdean people can trace their roots directly to the discovery of Cabo Verde and their original ancestors.

THE CEMETERY – NOSSA SENHORA DA PIEDADE (OUR LADY OF PIETY)



I believe that very few people are aware of this story, whether in the USA or in Cabo Verde, yet this story is a very important part of American history.

In the years between 1840 and 1850, American naval ships were part of the "African Squadron" in Cabo Verde and one of

the most important naval officers in American history; Commodore Perry; played an important role in Cabo Verde. He purchased a tract of land to bury the Americans who died from malaria on the African continent (Morrison 67).

Several people have said that the cemetery is still in Porto Grande (Mindelo), but as a result of modernization and new construction of houses, the area where the cemetery is located is now covered with construction projects.

Apparently the cemetery has been abandoned and there are few visible traces of the cemetery. In this situation, I believe that we should determine the truth of this matter because there are steps that can be taken to resolve this problem. I find it rather curious that the Indians in America have often complained when the Americans build golf courses or apartment complexes on the sites where their ancestors have been buried, but the Americans do not say anything about this situation.

ROBERTO DUARTE SILVA – 1837-1889

This famous scientist was born on the island of Santo Antão on 25 February 1837. In his youth he went to Lisbon where he worked as an apprentice at the pharmacy of Alves de Azevedo near the train station of Rossio in Lisbon (Carneira and Herod).

Having made good grades on his exams the Portuguese government sent him to Macau where he established a new pharmacy in Asia for Portugal. Several years later he decided to establish his own pharmacy in Hong Kong (Carneira and Herod).

Later he went to France where he became the director of chemical practices in a French School (Carneira and Herod).

He was awarded the "Cavaleiro do Cristo" by the Portuguese and also received other awards. In Paris he founded the Municipal School of Chemistry and Physics. In 1887 he was elected president of the Chemical Society of Paris (C. Pereira).

The fact is that he was a foreigner (*and a Cape Verdean*) who was recognized for the quality of his work (C. Pereira).

THE STEAMSHIP "DESTERO"

This steamship was built for the Brazil route, making the cross Atlantic trip from Hamburg (1000 Barcos 114).

It was built in 1895 and had a capacity of 250 passengers. It was used for cargo and passengers and owned by a German company; *Hamburg-Sud Amerika das Damphschiffarts-Geschellschaf,t* Hamburg, Germany (114).

There were many steamships from France, Italy, England, Germany and Portugal that loaded cargo and passengers for the countries of Latin America, South Africa and some destinations in Asia during the period in which the English established coal refueling stations for ships in Mindelo (Costa). The first station in Cabo Verde was established in 1838 and served as the only route to Australia and South Africa until the

Suez Canal was opened in 1869. It was in this way that the Europeans would settle in new lands spread across the world.

THE TREATY OF TORDESILHAS AND AMERICAN POWER

In this painting I have tried to show some of the details that explain how the location of Cabo Verde in the Treaty of Tordesilhas was able to influence the power of the United States.

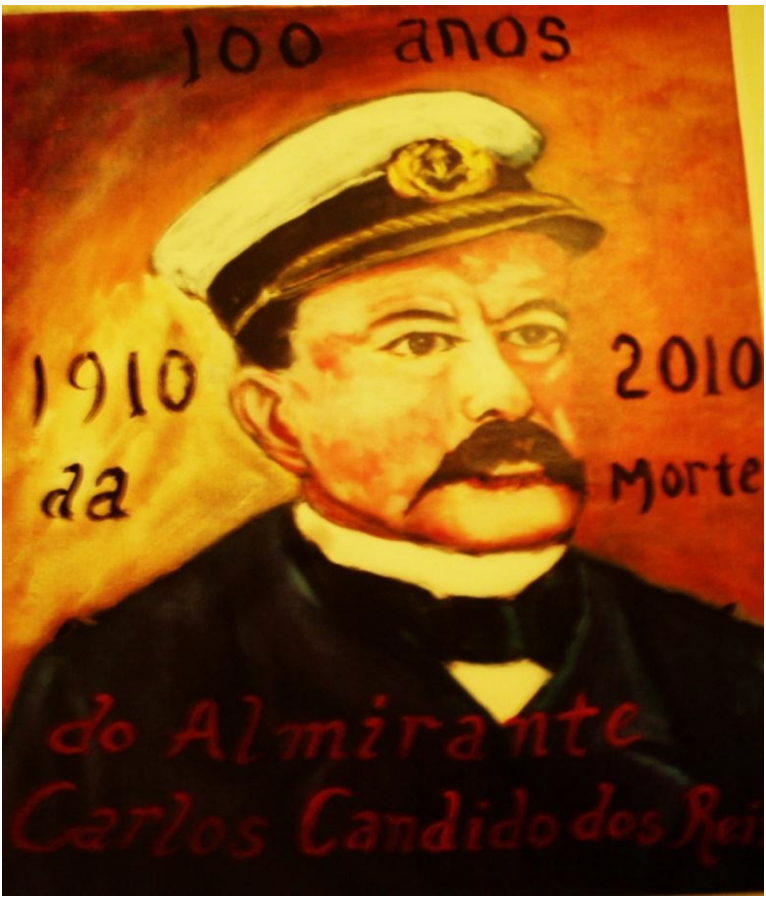
Basically historians investigating the history of the Philippine Islands agree that the creation of this nation begins with the Treaty of Tordesilhas and the demarcation line in Cabo Verde that was made in 1494 and the islands were then given to Spain based on this line (Blair and Robinson). Finally, the United States defeated Spain in a war in 1898 and received the Philippines as a gift. From that period onward the United States began to enjoy new influence in the Pacific and later throughout the entire world.

The name Filipinas is named after the King Felipe II of Spain. This name is written in Spanish as Felipe and in English it is Phillip. That is the reason why you see the words Philippines and Filipinas spelled two different ways. One version is the American way and the other version is the Spanish way ("What's in a Name"). On some old maps or in old texts you will find the name Felipe spelled as Filipe.

I hope that these explanations serve as a basis for those universities in Cabo Verde to begin to make new inquiries about the results of this treaty. Even today we can still see the influences caused by this treaty.

CENTURY XIX-XX

ADMIRAL CARLOS CANDIDO AZEVEDO DOS REIS 1852 – 1910:100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH 1910 – 2010



According to the book "Little Known", written by the author Américo Araújo, the admiral was from Fernão Nunes, Nova Sintra in Brava and grew up in Lisbon. Apparently his family was from Cabo Verde but maintained strong relations with

Portugal and in the 1850s (shortly after the birth of Carlos in 1852) the family emigrated to Lisbon, but many of them remained in Brava until the 1940s (Araújo162).

According to the book "A Imprensa-cabo-verdiana – 1820-1975" written by João Nobre Oliveira, the admiral was born in Lisbon in January 1852, but his mother was a native of the island of Brava (Oliveira 783).

The admiral made a major impact on the history of Portugal and was considered to be the leader that overthrew the last monarchy of Portugal (Araújo 164).

He died in the early hours of 5 October 1910 and many people say that he committed suicide because he believed that the revolution was failing and others believe that he was murdered by his political enemies (164-166).

His name is well known throughout Portugal and many avenues and streets are named after him. He also has a street named after him in Praia, Cabo Verde. We should note that the 100th anniversary of his death was commemorated in 2010.

LUIS LOFF VASCONCELOS

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century this Cape Verdean defended the rights of all Cape Verdeans whether Africans or Europeans. He wrote many articles that criticized the government. Along with other writers like Eugenio Tavares and Pedro Cardoso he was described by the writer Jose Vicente Lopes as one of the pioneers of the idea of independence for the independence movement before it took hold in Cabo Verde. I must admit that it was very difficult trying to find a photograph of him so I could paint his portrait.

Fortunately this problem was resolved when I found a book written by Germano Almeida where I found a picture of him for the first time (G. Almeida 67). For me, it was very difficult to find books that he had written, but it was still much more difficult to find a picture of him.

EUGÉNIO TAVARES – 1867-1930

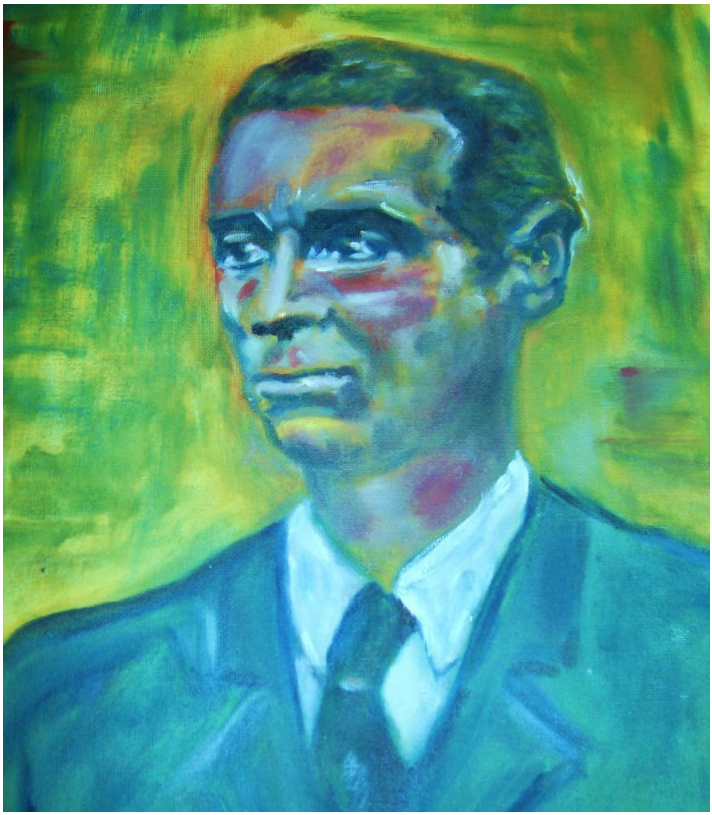
He was one of the great poets and writers from Brava and died in 1930 at the age of 63.

He wrote a lot about the injustice of the government and against the rights of Africans in Cabo Verde .

He went into exile in the USA for several years but returned to Cabo Verde where his soul always remained. His tombstone is in the cemetery in Brava and I had a chance to view it personally.

On 2 February 1995, he was awarded posthumously, the title of "Primeiro Grau da Ordem do Dragoeiro" by President Mascarenhas (Oliveira 812).

PEDRO CARDOSO – (1883-1942)



One of the great poets from the island of Fogo, like other great writers of his time; he fought for the rights of Africans. He was a student at the Seminary in São Nicolau. On 2 Feb 1995 he was awarded posthumously the title of "Segundo Grau da Ordem do Dragoerio" by President Mascarenhas (Oliveira 712-713).

O GENERAL VIRIATO GOMES FONSECA – 1863-1942
THE SINGING GENERAL

This is a rare picture of General Fonseca, who was a distinguished singer during his military career when he was younger; eventually he was promoted to the rank of General for his distinguished services as an officer in Guinea. He was a native of Santo Antão (Nogueira 21).

CENTURY XX-XXI

JORGE BARBOSA 25 MAY 1902 – 6 JUNE 1971

This is another great poet who was born in Praia, but a good part of his life was spent in Brava, São Vicente and Sal. There is a plaque on the building of the Minister of Finance in Praia to commemorate his place of birth. Despite the fact, that he only had a few years of education, he was a great poet.

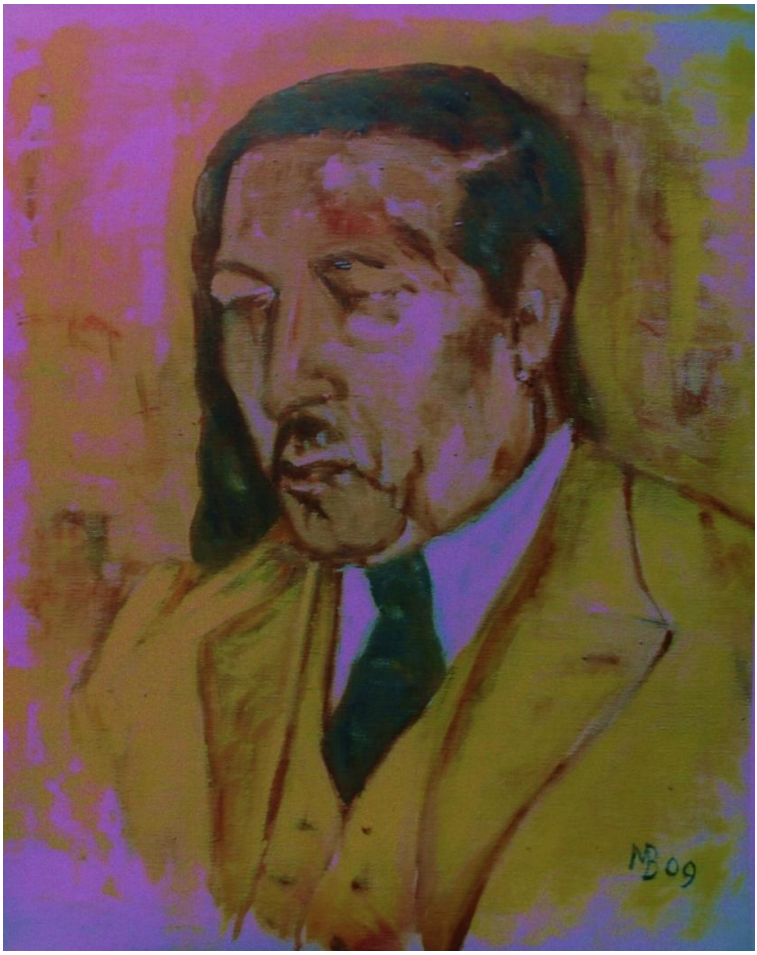
The government awarded him the title of Cavaleiro da Ordem do Império (Knight of the Order of the Empire) (Olivera 697).

A BRIG

This painting is an example of some of the boats that Cape Verdeans sailed. Normally we think that they sailed boats from

50 to 100 tons, but they also sailed boats that were much larger, for example, my great grandfather navigated a ship of 593 tons and others have navigated ships still much larger. One of my cousins is a qualified captain to navigate ships up to 3,000 tons.

BISHOP "DADDY GRACE" – MANUEL DA GRAÇA



Bishop Daddy Grace was born in the small village of Campos on the island of Brava; near the top of the mountain; in the 1880s. He came to America and built his own church in 1919 in the town of Wareham, MA. He incorporated what is believed to be the first new church in America in 1927. The

name of his church is the “House of Prayer for all Peoples”; he was apparently frustrated with the problems of segregation in the USA and wanted a church that would be accessible to everybody.

It has been said that the church had about 3 million worshippers; the overwhelming majority was Afro American.

When he died in 1959, his estate was reported to be worth about 25 million dollars (Smith).

Today the church is still active and according to some sources it has about 3 million worshippers while other sources believe that the number is much less.

CAPITAN MARCELINO GOMES BALLA 1863-1929

In 1877 he traveled to Brazil on the ship “Salineira”. In the 1890s he navigated boats to Gorée, Senegal and imported goods to Cabo Verde. He also navigated boats to the USA and Portugal. He was born on the island of Brava.

We should take note of the fact that there were many sea captains in Cabo Verde because there was a maritime school in Brava that trained them beginning in 1847 according to Eugenio Sena, a descendant of Eugenio Tavares. He also said that there was a ship building company on the island of Brava that built ships for national and international voyages.

The “Carvalho do Mar” was the last ship to be built and was launched in 1938.

THE BALLA FAMILY HOUSE IN BRAVA

This house is located in the village of Santa Barbara, Brava and it was here that 6 daughters and 5 sons were born to Marcelino Gomes Balla and Ana Faria Balla. Three of these sons were sea captains and perished in the boat “Matilde” in August 1943 on their way to America.

Today the house is in poor condition without maintenance. The government is apparently offering to participate in new programs with property owners that could possibly restore historical houses on the island.

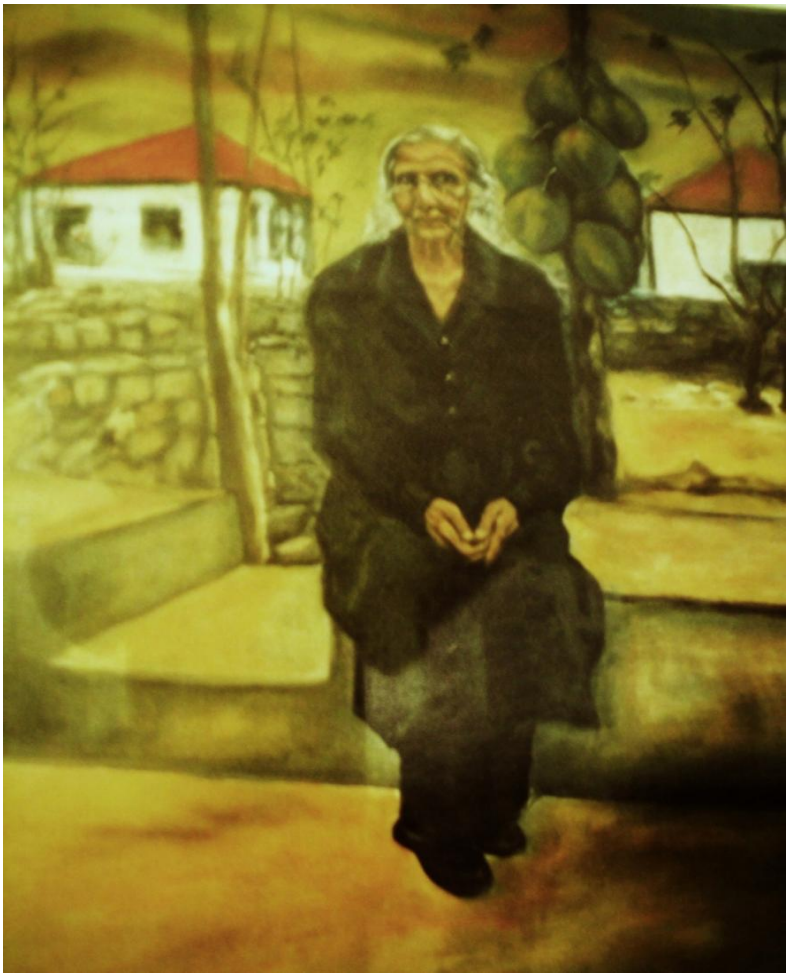
ALFREDO GOMES BALLA 1889 – 1951

He was the second child of Marcelino Gomes Balla and Ana Faria Balla.

His godfather was Luis Loff Vasconcelos.

In 1907 he immigrated to America for the first time and after returning to Cabo Verde he returned to America in 1911 and was employed on boats as a cook for many years.

MY AUNT ELVIRA BALLA DUARTE



In 1993 she was the last Balla to die in Brava at the age of 88. She was the widow of Antonio Duarte, a cousin of Jorge Barbosa. Fortunately she had the opportunity to visit her relatives in America before she died.

Many family members now live in the USA or Portugal, but in earlier times many of them went to Brazil and Africa.

FAJÃ D'AGUA

This is the port of Faja d' Agua on the island of Brava. It was from here that the boat "Matilde" departed and all the crew and passengers perished at sea on this fateful voyage.

Many people say that the two large rocks on the edge of the sea represent a lion and a lioness and are resting and looking out to the sea. Perhaps they know more about the destiny of the "Matilde".

THE BOAT "MATILDE"

In this painting I wanted to show the boat "Matilde" with as much force as possible in order that people would get a better understanding of this tragedy. Actually we do not know exactly what happened to the boat. The boat had sailed out of the port of Faja d' Agua in a clandestine operation, as it was not properly registered in the port of Furna to leave for America (according to writers who have written about this adventure), but unfortunately, it was also a time of war (WWII).

People have commented that it was very strange that nothing was ever written about this incident in the newspapers or mentioned in any other media. Some people believe that the boat may have been torpedoed by war ships that were operating in the area between Senegal and Brazil during WWII. This possibility is very worrisome, because in fact we do know that

a Brazilian boat, the “Bahia” was torpedoed in this area, by a submarine in 1945 (“Ubersee Sued”). Other people say that there was a storm at sea shortly after the departure of the boat.

The Matilde (verse 3)

Grieving for the homeland
Which holds their loved ones.
Mothers, wives and loved ones,
Don’t cry for your loved ones anymore.
Neither are the gusts of winds
Nor the ferocious waves
That have a more powerful will
Than the soul of the storm.
In Heaven at the side of the
Almighty.
And there for certain,
They are in splendor.

Translated by M. G. Balla from the Portuguese poem “The Matilde” by Silvestre Faria.

CAPTAIN VIRIATO BALLA

His father was one of the victims on the “Matilde” and like his father; he also has a great love for the sea and is a sea captain in Massachusetts. He also works with the US Coast Guard as an auxiliary in the New Bedford area.

His nephew is a sea captain on large international ships up to 3,000 tons and works in the Atlantic Ocean or in the Middle East.

SACADURA CABRAL AND GAGO COUTINHO
THE FIRST FLIGHT ACROSS
THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

These two famous Portuguese naval pilots made the flight across the Atlantic from Lisbon to Brazil in 1922. They had to make stops in Mindelo and Praia in Cabo Verde where they stopped over for a total of 13 days (Cabral 17-21).

Gago Coutinho wrote a lot about the details of this flight which is considered to be very important for the study of aviation.

The flight was made on a sea plane and they had to change planes in Cabo Verde due to problems they were having with the original plane.

This was a very dangerous flight at this time because they had to calculate with accuracy the amount of fuel that they would need to make the flight. These calculations could be very complicated if they encountered strong winds which would consume much more fuel than they had anticipated. The flight was being followed by ships in the Atlantic Ocean with emergency supplies to insure the safety of the flight. In any case, Cabo Verde played a major role in this historic flight (17-21).

THE FIRST AIRMAIL FLIGHT – 1928

Lieutenant Paulin Paris of France flew the first international courier flight from Paris to Africa and Latin America in 1928. He landed in Calheta de São Martinho on the island of Santiago, Cabo Verde (Cap-Vert 24-26).

A plaque was posted in the area of the landing in 1981by Air France as a tribute to honor those who participated in the event (26). During the ceremony, medals were presented to Cape Verdean citizens; most notably, Lorenzo Luis Fonseca and Antonio Rodrigues Lubrano; for their participation in this historic event (37).

This service became the basis for the founding of the company, “Air France” some years later (34). In 2003, the Cape Verdean Postal Service (Correios de Cabo Verde issued stamps to commemorate the 75th anniversary of this historic flight (Boletim No.6).

CHARLES LINDBERG AND ANN MURROW LINDBERG – 1933

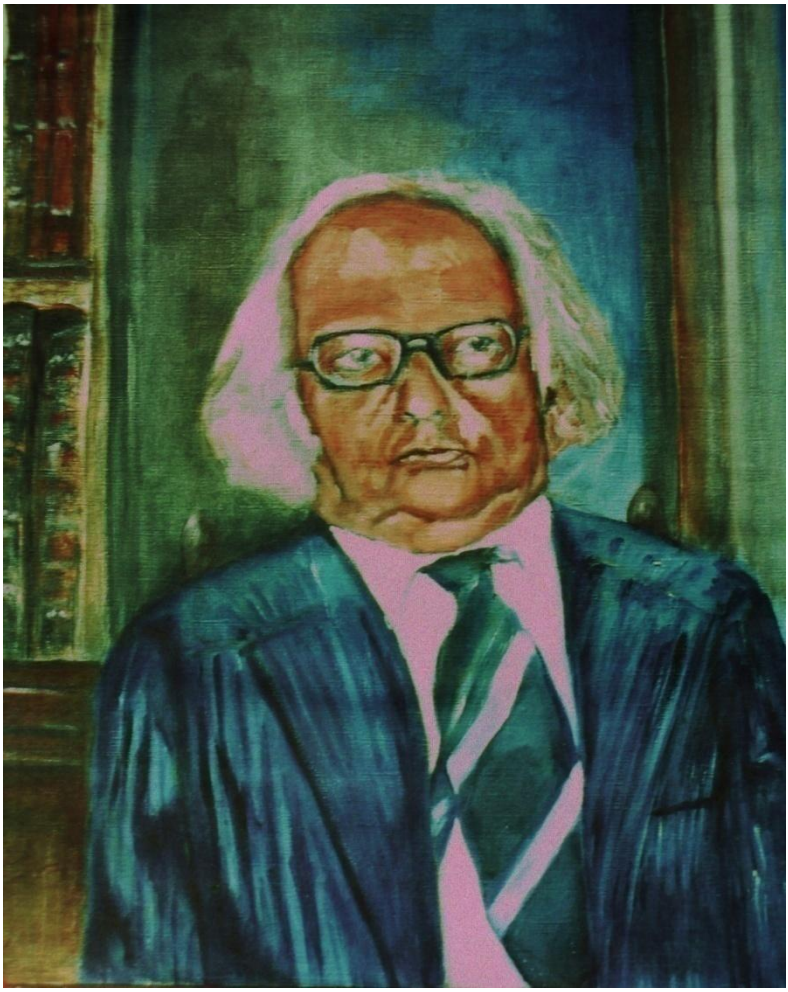
This couple represents two of the most famous pilots in American history. In 1927, Charles Lindberg made his famous solo flight from New York to Paris.

In 1933 the two pilots flew from North Africa (today Morocco) to the port of Praia in Cabo Verde. They stayed in Cabo Verde for three days. Ann Murrow Lindberg wrote a lot about this adventure in her book; “Listen; The Wind”.

Both pilots are in the Hall of Fame of American pilots.

I believe that here I should stress the important role that Cabo Verde made in the history of aviation.

DR. BALTASAR LOPES DA SILVA



He was a great writer, poet and philosopher as well as a professor and teacher. He said that **"our future is very dim if we do not know our past**." These words deserve to be understood. In the presentation of these paintings I am always

thinking of these words while trying to show our past. In this way, I hope to inspire our youth to study and create new ways to dignify the history of Cabo Verde.

THE SCHOONER "ERNESTINA"

This boat has a great history that involves Cabo Verde and the USA. Originally, the name of the boat in 1894 was" Effie M. Morrissey". But in the 20th century, Henry Mendes, a native of the island of Fogo in Cabo Verde purchased the boat to bring Cape Verdeans to America. He renamed the boat after his daughter "Ernestina". Today the boat remains in the USA as a gift from Cabo Verde to America. Unfortunately, it has been very difficult to properly maintain the boat in good condition due to lack of funds.

Recently it served the state of Massachusetts as a maritime sailing school, but since the world is in a financial crisis, maintenance has been delayed. In any case, I hope that we can understand how Cape Verdeans arrived in America.

CAPTAIN HENRIQUE MENDES

He purchased the “Effie M. Morrissey” for 7,000 dollars in 1947 and had to restore it. This boat brought many Cape Verdeans to America.

This boat made her first voyage from Cabo Verde to America n 1948 and the last one in 1965 (“Cape Verdeans in America”).

CAPTAIN JOSÉ LIMA

This valiant seaman managed to cross the Atlantic from the USA to Cabo Verde in a small boat in a voyage that lasted 57 days because of several storms they encountered along the way between the 3rd of July and 30th of August 1935. Miraculously, all of the passengers made it safely to Brava and the captain was received as a hero in Brava ("Cape Verdeans in America").

CAPTAIN JOÃO SOUSA

This captain navigated his first boat to America when he was 18 years old. He made voyages once a year between Cabo Verde and America during a period of 40 years. He died in 1958 at the age of 75. He was a very famous sea captain ("Cape Verdeans in America").

CAPTAIN PEDRO ÉVORA

This captain navigated several boats such as the “Marion”, the “Conrad” and the “Madalan” between 1949 and 1957.

He was also the last captain of the Ernestina (Cape Verdeans in America”).

CAPTAIN MANUEL LOPES

This sea captain navigated a schooner from New England to Africa and Cabo Verde. The name of his schooner was “Capitania”. (“Cape Verdeans in America”).

Note: Here I painted some of the great sea captains in Cape Verdean history, because I only wanted to give a few examples of the character and courage of the Cape Verdean people as a way to portray their heritage. The historian Traudi Coli estimates that we have had between 150 and 200 Cape Verdean sea captains.

THE PORT OF FURNA IN BRAVA

Many boats sailed from this port to America in the first half of the 20th century, including the "Ernestina". The first passengers were mostly from Fogo and Brava. We find other people representing other islands, but the overwhelming majority of the passengers came from Fogo and Brava. In the USA; where I was born; we knew that other islands existed, but most people in Massachusetts only spoke about Brava and Fogo.

RAYMOND GOMES AN AUTHENTIC WAR HERO

This Cape Verdean from Onset, MA, was a true war hero in Europe. He was captured by the Nazis in Italy and seven times he escaped from their prisons. Each time that he was captured he would be given worse treatment and twice they threatened to execute him.

For his heroism he was awarded the highest honor given to a foreigner in Italy for saving the life of an Italian priest. He was also awarded many medals by the American government. He died in 1995 at age 77.

AMÍLCAR CABRAL

He was a great revolutionary who wanted to dignify the Cape Verdean people. He wanted to help the African people improve their living conditions and way of life. Portugal apparently opposed his initiatives. I believe that he must have had very negative impressions about the intentions of Portugal relating to the treatment of Africans.

During his struggle, we find other struggles around the world such as in the USA where the people were fighting for

the rights of Negroes and there were wars of independence in the African countries throughout the continent of Africa. The Europeans controlled the destiny of Africans, whether in the north of the continent or in the south.

We see a great cabal of Europeans with all of the materials and troops necessary to suppress the Africans.

Today the situation is a lot different. In fact, it seems as though Cabral had a dramatic effect on the Portuguese struggle against their dictator and may have inspired the revolution of 25 April in Portugal as well as in other countries of Africa.

For me personally, I believe that Cabral inspired the people to take responsibility to construct a country to dignify the people with more justice and efficiency, especially by giving Cape Verdeans a great opportunity to rewrite their own history and become more respected in the world.

500 YEARS 1460 – 1960

Two medals were minted in 1960 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the death of Prince Henry and the discovery of Cabo Verde. These two medals were signed by the President of the Republic Américo Tomás and the President of the Conselho, António Oliveira Salazar (Boletins de propaganda 16-17). It is extremely important to note the fact that both of

these events were engraved on the same medal. The Portuguese explained in the Boletins of propaganda that these two events occurred in 1460; the 500 year anniversary of the commemorations of the discovery of Cabo Verde and the death of the Infante are considered to be an exceptionally fortunate coincidence for the Portuguese world (---.---. 23). Therefore, the two events were commemorated on the same medal.

The Portuguese also stated that the Portuguese/Cape Verdeans are descendants of the pioneers of the New World (---.2-3). This is a historical fact for better or worse.

500 YEARS – THE SECOND MEDAL

This medal shows Cabo Verde in the center of the world with routes that link several continents and demonstrates that globalization began in Cabo Verde.The original medal was reproduced on the back cover of the Boletim of proganda and information in October of 1960. Thus, we can visualize the extraordinary value of Cabo Verde due to its key location (Boletins de propaganda).

We must remember that the Africans and Europeans took advantage of these routes to populate new lands by passing through the islands of Cabo Verde. This factor was in addition to the international trade that was being established on the same routes.

It is also import to remember that the church was going through Cabo Verde to spread her religion in Latin America, North America, Asia, Australia and Africa.

FRANK BORGES

He was elected as the Secretary of the Treasury in the state of Connecticut at the age of 34 in 1986. He was elected two times. According to one article on the Internet in December of 2011 he is going to be a candidate for the senate in the state of Connecticut in 2012 (Renners).

When he arrived in the USA from Cabo Verde at the age of 8 he only spoke Portuguese (or Crioulo). He completed his education in the USA and earned a law degree.

TOM LOPES – EDITOR

This gentleman was the editor of the newspaper CVN (Cape Verdean News) for more than 30 years. This newspaper opened the way to provide information about Cabo Verde and Cape

Verdeans to the world. Unfortunately, after more than 30 years of publication, the newspaper was closed. During the years of this publication, the American people had access to a lot of information about the history and culture of Cabo Verde and in this sense the newspaper made a tremendous impact on the American community.

Previously he served in the legislative body as an elected state representative in the state of Massachusetts.

JOHN ”BERTIE” CRUZ – BUSINESSMAN

In this painting we have a great Cape Verdean businessman; John “Bertie” Cruz, receiving an award from Bridgewater State College for distinguished services to the state of Massachusetts. He established the first minority corporation in the state in 1947 and employed many minorities in his construction business. He died a few years ago in New Bedford, MA. Today his company is directed by his son, John B. Cruz. This family comes from the island of Fogo. The president of Bridgewater State College (now Bridgewater State University) in this painting is Dana Mohler Faria with roots in Brava, Cabo Verde.

COLONEL GARY BRITO

Coronel Gary Brito is an officer of the United States Army and is a native of Hyannis, MA. He is a distinguished officer and has many decorations. He served two terms in Iraq.

SOFIA BARBOSA – SINGER

This singer is from Oeiras, Portugal and has origins in Cabo Verde. She was the winner of the first competition on the program "Operação Triunfo" (Operation Triumph), a television show in Portugal. She has since made a few visits to Cabo Verde to demonstrate her talents as a singer. She has a fantastic voice.

GUENNY PIRES AND JOÃO MIRANDA

Mr. Pires is a movie producer in Los Angeles, CA and travels around the world to film Cape Verdean communities in order to maintain connections to his Cape Verdean heritage. He is from the island of Fogo. He also gives many talks at US universities to provide more information to the American people about Cabo Verde.

Mr. João Miranda is an officer of one of the Cape Verdean Associations in Lisbon and has helped many Cape Verdeans in Portugal.

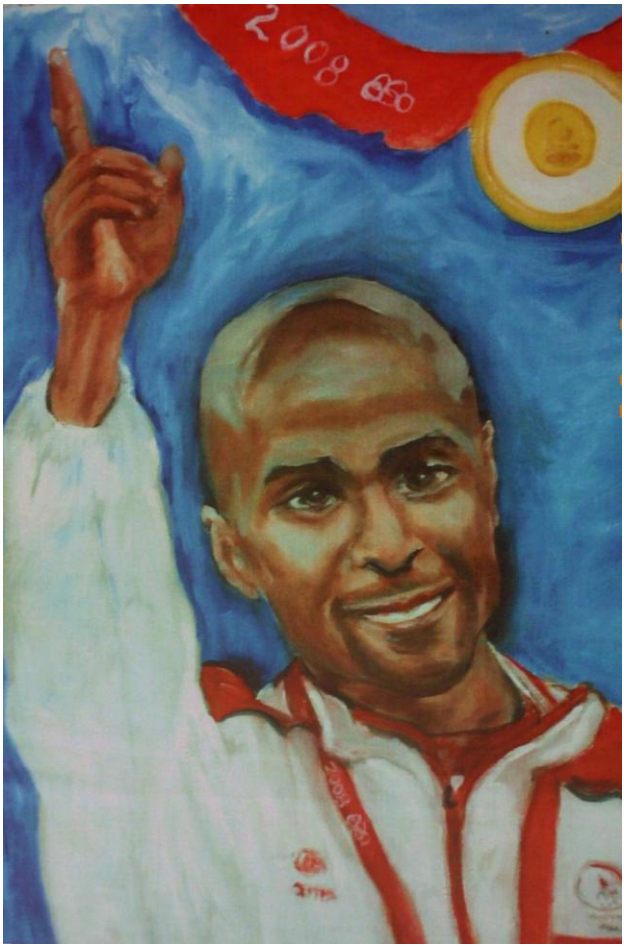
GLENN MONTEIRO AND WAYNE FONTES

These two gentlemen have been great friends ever since their school days in Wareham, MA, where both men played

football for Wareham High School. But things have changed. Mr. Fontes became one of the best football players in the country and later became the coach of the Detroit Lions. In 1991, he was elected as the best coach; from 28 professional teams; in the National Football League (NFL).

Mr. Monteiro enjoyed an excellent career as a health inspector for the town of Wareham, MA, where he worked as an official for nearly 40 years before he retired in 2009. Both men have their Cape Verdean roots in Fogo, Cabo Verde.

NELSON ÉVORA – ATHLETE



This Cape Verdean athlete is fantastic.

He won the triple jump in the world championships in 2007, in 2008 he won a gold medal in the Olympic Games in China and in 2009 he won a silver medal in the world championships.

He has set numerous records in Portugal and Cabo Verde. Now he competes for Portugal where he does his training. He is considered to be one of the world's great athletes and is very popular in Portugal where he has many fans.

And like the singer Sofia, he has also made visits to Cabo Verde.

The gold medal jump – China – 2008

MARY VIEIRA ROSE

This young lady is a former president of several Cape Verdean organizations in Wareham, MA. She has helped many needy Cape Verdeans in Cabo Verde.

Even today at the age of 97 she still is very active and still helps Cape Verdeans. When she was a young girl she was prohibited by the police from entering the beaches of Onset, MA because she was a Cape Verdean. We must understand our struggle in all corners of the world and for this reason I wanted to paint a picture of this woman who is seen as a saint in the Cape Verdean community of Massachusetts.

In 2010 she commemorated her 96th birthday in Cabo Verde in the land of her parents. This was her first visit to Cabo Verde where she made stops in Fogo and Brava where her parents were born. She still talks of returning to celebrate her 100th birthday.

A TRADITIONAL HOUSE MAID IN PRAIA

This picture shows a typical house maid on the streets of Praia in Cabo Verde. In this case, the woman is carrying a box on her head and carrying two water bottles and a broom in her

hands. She is probably on her way to clean a house. Who knows?

I must say that these cleaning women manage to carry very heavy loads on their heads and their skills to balance these loads are really amazing.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE SUGAR CANE MILL

1. Humans used for energy (slaves) (Canfux and Ferro 86).

2. Oxen used for energy (sometimes other animals are used) and finally.

3. Motorized energy.

These three pictures show the evolution of the sugar cane mills (trapiche). I always wanted to show the complete evolution of these mills, but unfortunately, I did not have time to find a more modern one. However, in any case here we can see three different types in these paintings.

CAPTAIN SCHAEFFER – U-977 – NAZIS IN CABO VERDE 1945

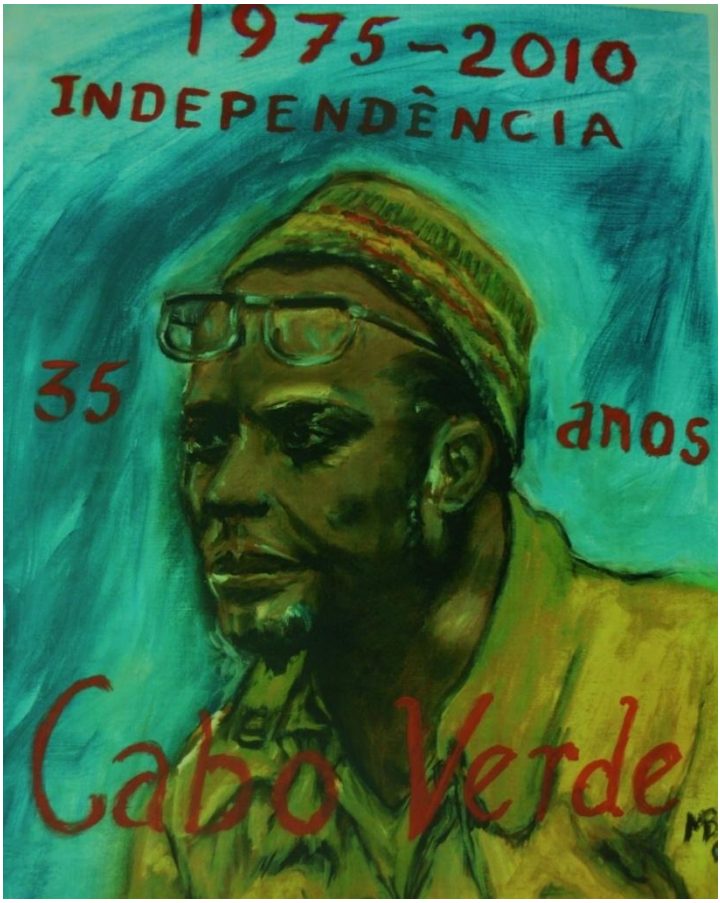
This story will shock any person who is not aware of this case. Captain Schaeffer; a Nazi; commanded the submarine, the U-977 during World War II and when the war ended in May 1945, he and his crew fled Europe and took the submarine to Argentina. The submarine remained underwater in the Atlantic Ocean without emerging during a period of 66 days; a world record at that time; until finally arriving in Cabo Verde. In Cabo Verde, the sub finally emerged and the crew managed to enjoy a day of rest and recreation on one of the deserted islands.

Finally they went to Argentina, but when they arrived there they were accused of having torpedoed a Brazilian boat, the "Bahia" on 13 August 1945. They were taken to the United States for questioning and after several months there, the crew was set free, but the investigation of this case was classified for

at least 75 years. Normally, something of this nature would be classified for a period of 25 to 50 years, but in this case that policy was changed to 75 to 100 years. This type of decision is considered to be very rare and some people believe that this is the only classified case involving World War II. ("Ubersee Sued").

If anyone has any doubts about this story, I suggest that they seek more information on the Internet and search for Captain Schaeffer, U-977 and Cabo Verde.

INDEPENDENCE – 35 YEARS



A picture of Cabral should be the symbol of independence in Cabo Verde. One of the most important reasons for this statement must be the inspiration that he has given to many people to improve their lives and pay attention to the problems of Cabo Verde, especially in the construction of a country with more dignity.

THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW WORLD

In the sense that Cabo Verde was not considered to be part of the old world, we must note that Cabo Verde represents the beginning of the new world (Meinig). Based on that information it is much easier to understand the world in which we live today. In reality, the discovery of Cabo Verde created a paradigmatic shift that changed the history of the world.

THE ISLANDS OF CABO VERDE

Barlavento

Sotavento

Here are a few details about Cabo Verde:

Brava was settled around the year 1545 (Canfux and Ferro).

Fogo was the Second Island to be settled. Many of the inhabitants were deportees from Portugal (33-36).

Santiago was the first island to be developed and was divided into two Capitanias (administrative districts); Ribeira Grande and Alcatraz (today it is known as Ponto Inglês) (36).

It seems that São Nicolau would have been settled around the middle of the 16trh century (44).

Santo Antão was settled by slaves in the middle of the 16th century (45).

It seems that Sal was inhabited in the 17th century as a result of the salt mines (46).

São Vicente has documentation to verify a population since 1734 (46).

In 1643, the earliest documentation of the" *Atlantic Slave Trade*" is recorded by Jonathan Winthrop in Massachusetts and he said that a ship from Boston purchased slaves on the island of Maio, Cabo Verde (R. Almeida).

In the 20th century an airport was built on the island of Sal, more precisely in the year 1939. Mussolini had authorized funding for the construction of the airport to expand and

support contacts between South America and Italy (R. Almeida)

São Nicolau had a seminary during the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century (Oliveira712).

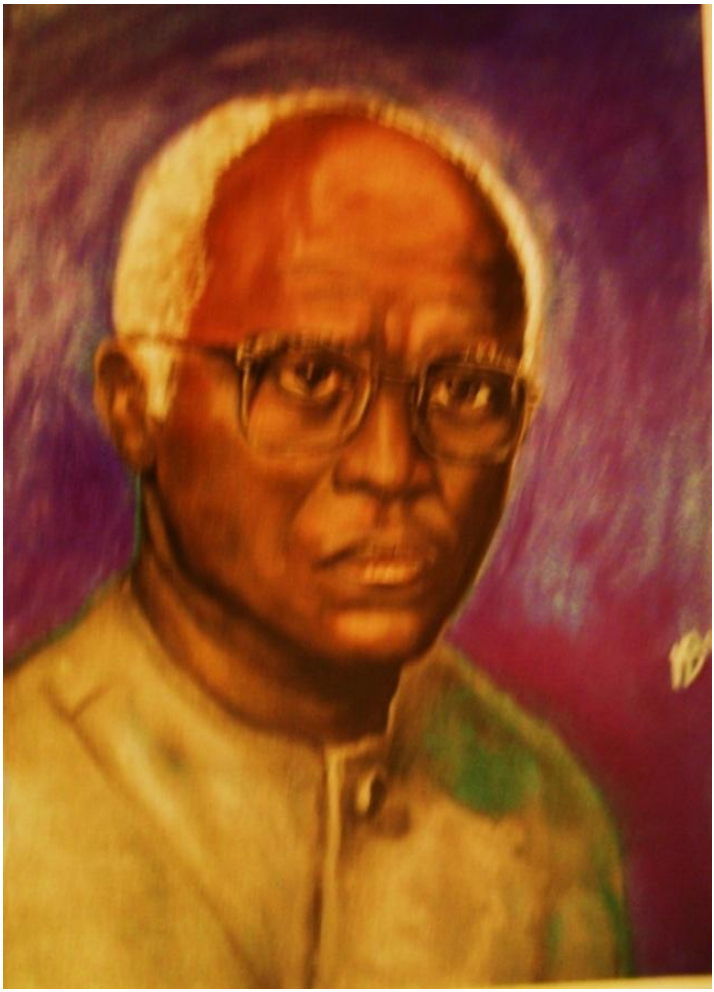
Boa Vista is the island of ship wrecks. Between 1842 and 1936 this island had 63 ship wrecks recorded.

Note: Some of these islands were used to raise goats for the settlers of Brazil in the early years of Brazilian history.

PRESIDENTS AND PRIME MINISTERS
35 YEARS OF HISTORY

Finally I wanted to paint all the presidents and prime ministers that served in these offices in the first 35 years since independence so that the Cape Verdean people around the world would be aware of the country's leadership throughout the years since independence, especially for the youth of today and people in the Diaspora.

PRESIDENT
ARISTIDES PEREIRA 1975-2001

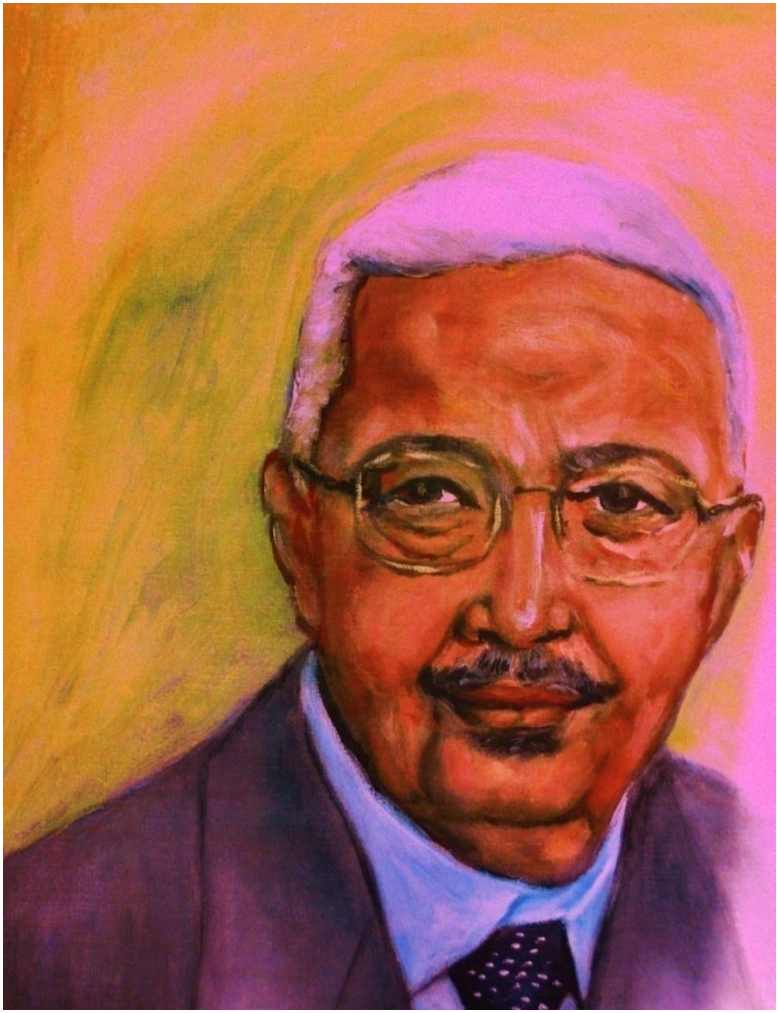


PRESIDENT
ANTÓNIO MASCARENHAS MONTEIRO – 1991-2001

PRIME MINISTER
CARLOS VEIGA 1991-2001

PRIME MINISTER
JOSÉ MARIA NEVES 2001-

PRESIDENTE
PEDRO PIRES 2001-2011
PRIME MINISTER 1975-2001



FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Once I discovered the fact that Portugal had commemorated the 500th anniversary of the death of Prince Henry and the discovery of Cabo Verde in 1960, I started to think about commemorating 550 years for these same events. I never read anything about this event in 1960 and the commemorations must have been very limited. I was thinking that these commemorations deserve the same publicity as Expo 92 and Expo 98 in Seville and Lisbon. I believe that we must promote Cabo Verde more openly and with more justice. One of the greatest advantages of independence means that for the first time in history we have an opportunity to develop our own history side by side with other countries involved in this history. In this way we can seek out the truth which in the past was always beyond our reach. We must be thankful to Cabral, Pereira, Pires and all those who participated in the struggle for the independence of Cabo Verde for giving us this important opportunity.

We are always being assaulted with pictures of world history and religious history. I believe that for this reason we must try to understand that these pictures have been painted by artists with their imaginations. But paintings and other forms of art remain in the memories of people forever and usually these paintings are preserved in museums, churches and in archives and books, etc. Thus, we have a point of reference that affects our thoughts.

Unfortunately, historically we have been studying and viewing the paintings of others, now however, for the first time in Cape Verdean history we have a great opportunity, to paint, study and transmit our own interpretations of this history. In

this way, we can create new possibilities for future generations to write and think about Cape Verdean history.

I hope these works will inspire others to develop and refine Cape Verdean history based on their own experiences and historical data. Eventually, we can build a society that is more attentive to our needs and with more dignity.

Sincerely,
M. G. Balla

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NOTES:

I used various sources as a guide to paint many of these pictures, such as magazines, newspapers, postcards and old books. In some cases, I used photos that were given to me by family members or friends.